

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1, 3, and 5 - 21 are pending in the application; claims 1 and 3 having been amended; claims 2 and 4 having been canceled, and claims 5 - 21 having been added by way of the present amendment.

In response to the Notice of Non-Complaint Amendment the status identifiers of Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to indicate “(New):”.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 05-131696 to Konishi in view of JP 2879872 to Onizuka et al. and Claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Konishi and Onizuka et al. and further in view of USP 5,225,881 to Goto et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The pending claims each include the feature of using a substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path to convey a sheet having ink thereon. This feature prevents wet ink from being smeared or otherwise disturbed as could occur when the sheet having wet ink thereon is transported through a path with a significant curve.

Should the examiner consider there to be any prior art intervening between the Japanese priority date and the original U.S. filing date, applicants believe the pending claims are entitled to their Japanese priority date, a translation of which has already been submitted. In Figures 7 and 8 of the priority document, there is a path containing rollers 47 and 48 which may be used for drying. However, paragraph 37 of the translation of the priority document explains:

As an alternative, for example, in the recording apparatus of the above described embodiment, it is also possible to make a structure in the recoding sheet after the print on its one side is ejected to the sheet ejection tray and, by using the sheet ejection roller as the

switchback roller, the recording sheet can be re-transported from
the sheet ejection tray.

This sentence provides support for a modification to the Figures in order to use the path
having rollers 42 and 43 as the path on which sheets are conveyed for drying, prior to printing
on the second side thereof. Thus, the priority document provides support for each of the
pending claims.

As no prior art shows the features set forth in the pending claims, each of the claims is
patentable over the prior art of record, and rejections thereof should be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be
outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in
condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this
application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the
undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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(OSMMN 06/04)

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